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John Allen Chalk

4-15-1970

To: Gordon Bennett

John Allen Chalk

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April 15, 1970

Dr. Gordon Bennett
McMurry College
Abilene, Texas

Dear Dr. Gordon:

The attached editorial from the Reporter News caused me some concern. I read and heard the remarks made by Howard Caver following the recent city council election. I also followed Mr. Caver's campaign very closely. He at no time, in my personal judgment, showed a racial bias. He did speak plainly and directly to the business-education type leadership that our city has traditionally enjoyed. But I do not believe that one interprets him correctly to say that either Mr. Caver waged his campaign or interpreted his loss along racist lines.

This is why I view the attached editorial with alarm. I do not believe it correctly assesses either Mr. Caver's aims or his spirit. Such misinterpretation, if accepted by you and other community leaders, could widen the gaps among various "communities" within our city. Knowing you to be a sensible, open, responsible leader, I wanted to register my reaction to the editorial in question and urge that you not see it as the best approach to understanding either Mr. Caver or the black community in Abilene.

I decided to write you as opposed to writing the editor of the Reporter-News because I felt your attitudes toward this specific matter would be of great consequence in the coming months. I offer you my personal support and encouragement as you respond to all our community as one of its leaders.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Cholk

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